

Pierre Merlou for his disciple and son-in-law.

A START DOWNWARD.

All at once the prospect changes. It is the year preceding the terrible war of 1870. The splendor of the imperial court has reached its highest pitch. Young Merlou is drawn into the vortex of the life which is heedless of the morrow. He neglects his studies. He frequents the casinos. He is singled out by the mistress of one of the emperor's nearest relatives, who loves to lavish literary and artistic talent to her gatherings at the Chateau de Meudon.

MARRIED AN ACTRESS.

We pass on a few years. Pierre Merlou is now a doctor and has married an ex-actress of the Odéon theater. Lacking private means and face to face with the necessities of existence he accepts a medical appointment at Saint Sauveur in the Yonne. He takes to politics. He writes a sensational article entitled "Place aux pauvres" (Make way for the poor) in the local radical socialist organ; becomes mayor of Saint Sauveur in 1880. Nine years later is a veur in 1889. He is elected deputy of the chamber of Auxerre, which he represented uninterruptedly until last year.

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.

It was in 1892 Dr. Merlou was acting as locum tenens for a well known Paris physician who was away on his holidays. One of his patients was a Mme. Azay, then in the bloom of beauty. The woman's story was an unusual one. The granddaughter of a countess of Napoleon III, who was a forward of the famous Miss Howard, afterwards Countess of Beauchamp, Mme. Azay's father had been spent in the atmosphere of court intrigue. Her mother was left a widow with 50,000 francs a year, a villa at Auteuil in Normandy. Misfortune seems to have dogged the footsteps of this family. After a German episode with a German prince, Marguerite, the absence of her family physician led her to Dr. Merlou's consulting room. The doctor and his patient became friends, then more than friends. Presently the woman was installed in an apartment a few doors from that inhabited by the deputy and his family in the rue du Rocher.

SUNSHINE THEN SHADOWS.

Mme. Azay was anxious to go on the stage. Her lover's income needs, much less for the upkeep of two households. But the French deputy can do much in the way of influence. There are three theaters subservient by the state. So it was decided that Mme. Azay should become an actress at the Odéon. The project, however, for some reason or other was never put into execution. Some years passed, happy years for the lovers. A son was born to them. But then the clouds began to gather on the horizon. Disastrous speculation on the part of Mme. Azay's mother entered into the mind of the deputy. The mention of the rue du Rocher was broken up and Mme. Azay moved to Versailles. The man, as so often happens in such cases, grew impatient of an alliance which was now a burden to him. Open scenes followed. There was an open scandal at St. Lazare station and next day the gossip told how a deputy had struck a woman with his umbrella and how the petite dame had knocked the deputy's tail hat off. The rupture was now complete. It was followed by a scene at the chamber, by a scene at the deputy's house in the rue du Rocher and then, gradually the Parisians ceased to talk of the private affairs of Deputy Merlou. There are so many other fresh scandals cropping up daily in the Ville Lumière. Very few boulevardiers could have explained why on the eve of his departure to Lima as the representative of the republic, his excellency Pierre Merlou was attacked by a veiled woman on the Boulevard des Capucines. And yet the events of which this was the sequel only date back about five years!

The fact that Dr. Merlou was head over ears in debt; that he had borrowed right and left from the "gros bonnets" or leading men in his constituency; that he had had one or several mistresses; or one of whom had declared a remorseless vendetta on him; all this is not sufficient to explain his self-extinction. There were graver reasons still. M. Merlou seems to have lost caste with his own party. A bitter and unscrupulous political opponent, M. Henri Rochefort, summed up the situation in his scorpion-like manner: "There is no one like . . . to drain a bank dry. As for Merlou, he likes to turn to his mistresses and fishes their purses while calling them by endearing names." Another opponent, Jules Delahaye, goes further and charges the ex-minister with delicate corrupt practices—of having used public monies to the payment of his debauches. There are, further, two unsavory episodes recounted at some length by André Gaucher, which, if they are true, would be sufficient to blast Merlou's reputation in the eyes of every decent man. I mentioned that Mme. Azay's mother was a woman of some fortune, as she was possessed of an income of 100,000 francs together with various landed properties. André Gaucher declares that Merlou availed himself of his intrigues with Mme. Azay in order to worm himself into the confidence of her mother and induce the older woman to invest money in notoriously worthless speculations on which he secured a handsome commission from the banker financing the concern. One of these was Sicilian sulphates. Mme. Azay was prevailed upon to invest 25,000 francs with the prospect of a return of 25 to 30 per cent. Each of the shares for which she paid 25 was worth exactly one shilling on the London market. Merlou, says André Gaucher, was paid by the banker 5,000 francs for his services in the transaction!

M. Merlou had now become financial adviser to Mme. Azay's mother and she was induced to invest 20,000 francs in another worthless concern, the Société d'Electricité de Salomon. M. Merlou's commission, it is alleged, was this time 25 per cent. In the light of these revelations it is scarcely to be wondered at that M. Merlou's political friends should have shipped him off to distant shores.

JULES TINAYRE

A STITCH IN TIME

Will save him. He will a bottle of Ballard's Horcheland Syrup always kept on hand save many a child of sickness. A sure cure for Croup, Whooping Cough, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Asthma, etc. Write for a bottle of Ballard's Horcheland Syrup to J. C. M. I. Drug Dept., 112 and 114 South Main Street.

PERSIAN'S ROYAL PUPPET

(Continued from page thirteen.)

districts the people have established consists of a group of houses to which they can appeal to settle their disputes without subjecting themselves to blackmail. The head of the church in Persia is the Moutchell of Kerkela, a town near Bagdad in Turkey. This man wields far greater power than the occupant of the gorgeous palace in prompt obedience from his faithful quarters where those of the shah would command respect. And as he lives in Turkish territory the shah cannot get hold of him to exercise upon him any of those persuasive arts which oriental are adept. "Much has been heard of the re-

forms that are to be accomplished by means of the Persian drama. The new shah has declared himself favorable to its projected reforms and has announced that he would not disavow it for two years. But I have little faith that anything of real benefit to Persia will come from it so long as it is in the hands of the mullahs, who are themselves the greatest obstacles in the land to sweeping reforms. As well might one expect the wolves that prey on a sheepfold to give up eating mutton as to expect the mullahs to do anything that would weaken their grip on the people. Despite the fact that great freedom is allowed missionaries in Persia, and Americans have missionary schools in Tehran itself, there is scant prospect of enlightening the people by spreading Christianity among them. The missionaries are tolerated only on the understanding that they seek to make no converts among the Mussulmans. If they should attempt that they would be excommunicated. Their religious activities, therefore, are restricted to the Armenians and Nestorians, who don't count for much.

"The career of the late shah affords a striking illustration of the limitations which conditions in Persia impose on the exercise of despotic power. He hated his father's grand vizier, who was in office when he succeeded to the throne, but he dared not depose him immediately. After tolerating him for some time he ventured to ask for his insignia, which signified that he was dismissed. The dismissal of a grand vizier in Persia is usually accompanied by an invitation to take a drink. The drink contains poison. This the deposed prime minister is expected to swallow and gracefully retire to another world, where he can no longer cause any embarrassment to his royal master.

JOYS AND SHADOWS.

"But the grand vizier had no desire to exchange the solid joys of earth for the shadowy delights of Paradise. Protected by the Russian legation and several miles from Tehran, where he possessed an estate, and there he re-

mained for two years, practically defying the shah. Owing largely to his influence the grand vizier who succeeded him could accomplish nothing, and the shah had to endure the humiliation of recalling him. He returned more powerful than ever, and bestowed snuff bullets on all his friends.

"The personal favorite of the shah was Hakim el Mouk, who had been his physician and whom he made minister of the court. The restored grand vizier, regarding him as a rival, was his enemy and despite the high regard in which he was held by the shah succeeded in getting him exiled from Tehran. One day Hakim el Mouk received the 'golden cup,' a vessel which the shah is accustomed to send to those of his friends or enemies whom he desires to get off the earth. Imagining that it had come from the shah, Hakim obediently swallowed the fatal draft. The shah had not sent it, and he was furious over the loss of his friend. The evidence indicated pretty clearly that it was the grand vizier who had secured the royal prerogative. But again he was able to make good his escape, and this time, having in the interval well-feathered his own nest, he fled to Europe, where he can calmly disregard golden cups and need not fear assassins' daggers. This happened three years ago, and in Europe he still lives.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"The present grand vizier, Mouchir el Dowleh, was for some years minister of foreign affairs. He owed that position to the grand vizier who ran away to Europe, and the fact that he was able to retain it and gain promotion to the highest office in the government shows him to be an unusually crafty fellow and able to trim his sails to whatever wind blows, for almost invariably when a grand vizier falls his appointees share his fate. He is a thorough Persian, ignorant of any foreign language, and not at all the sort of man to adopt a firm policy and wield his power with a strong hand for the benefit of his country. He used to be completely subservient to Russian influence, and his son, who is the Persian

minister at St. Petersburg, was educated in Russia. But now that Russia counts for so much less in the political game as played in Persia he has probably ere this furnished further proof of his capacity to adapt himself to changed conditions. I have little doubt that he will be able to hold his office under the new shah, as will most of the members of the cabinet.

"There are some able men among them, notably the minister of finance, Nasir el Mouk, who was educated at Oxford and speaks English fluently. But he is a Persian, and when a Persian takes office, whatever his training, his first consideration is usually his own purse.

"That is generally a shah's failing, too, as has been well exemplified in the late shah's reign. He used up a big share of a Russian loan on his own household expenses and to defray the cost of his European tours. His extravagance has sadly depleted the great horde of jewels and other treasures which were stored in the palace when he became the 'King of Kings.' The new shah will have no such means of raising the wind. The Peacock Throne, which is literally studded with precious stones and is estimated to be worth several millions of pounds, would suffice to keep him going for many years, but even a shah would not dare to loot this most prized of the royal hoards of Persia."

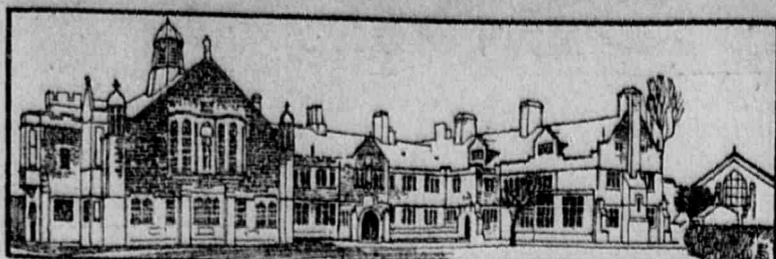
E. LISLE SNELL.

EVEN FROM THE MOUNTAINS

Ballard's Snow Liniment is praised for the good it does. A sure cure for Rheumatism and all pains. Wright W. Loving, Grand Junction, Colo., writes: "I used Ballard's Snow Liniment last winter for Rheumatism and can recommend it as the best Liniment on the market. I thought at the time I was taken down with this trouble, that it would be a week before I could get about, but on applying your Liniment several times during the night, I was about in 48 hours and well in three days." Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept., 112 and 114 South Main Street.

YOU ARE INVITED to come in and hear all the latest records and graphophones. Columbia Phonograph Co., 327 South Main.

THE GLADSTONE MEMORIAL AT HAWARDEN.



The cut shows the fine new St. Delniol's library which has recently been completed at Hawarden as a memorial to Mr. Gladstone. It is of red sandstone, and the interior is of oak. This library contains the bulk of the books once belonging to the great statesman, over 40,000 volumes.

ROCKEFELLER'S NEW WIG MADE OF FEMININE TRESSES.

Special Correspondence.

PARIS, Feb. 6.—Andre Autard is the hero of the hour in Paris. His name is upon every tongue. He is spoken of as the wig-finisher of the richest man in the world. Since it became known that he makes wigs for John D. Rockefeller, titled Frenchmen press forward to shake his hand. Andre Autard is the big little man whose hair-dressing establishment is in the Rue Castiglione, opposite the Continental hotel. It is not far from the famous Tuilleries gardens and in the season is much frequented by Americans. He is a cheerful Frenchman, and, as is the custom with people of his station, is assisted by his long-checked wife. He advertises extensively and is said to have amassed a fortune by his calling. When John D. Rockefeller was at Compiègne last summer, he sent for the hair artist. It was not to cut his hair, for the billionaire has none. "Mr. Rockefeller is the baldest man

in the world," said Autard to me. "He has not a single hair on his head and even his moustache has fallen off." "Can science make hair grow on Mr. Rockefeller's head?" I inquired. "Science can make a few hairs grow on anything," replied the hair-dresser and wig-maker. "Science can make hair grow on a board, that is, a few hairs. But when roots have disappeared, science cannot restore the whole head of hair. All the money possessed by Mr. Rockefeller cannot now get him a head of natural hair. But it can get him something almost as good. I can get him a wig that is a dream. Permit me to show you the color of the hair. It is quite gray, not white. It is the color of the hair that Mr. Rockefeller lost. You see how it is parted on the side. This wig weighs only 20 grammes. It is exceedingly comfortable."

"Where does the hair for these wigs come from?" "It comes from various sources. The hair of prisoners is cut off and sold. The hair of criminals is sent to our market. The hair of the poor is sometimes cut off, and also is the hair of sick people. All that is for cheap wigs by irresponsible makers. Again, some women like to wear their hair

like men. Hence they cut it off. There are many women in France who cut their hair for the sole purpose of getting some money for it. The hair of this wig of Mr. Rockefeller's is the beautiful soft gray hair of a lady once those made in New York, M. Autard more than one-third of the weight of point of price, they are about the same. Mr. Rockefeller's wig cost 300 francs. They would cost about the same in the United States. Then so as to protect the industry in the United States."

"Please explain the dispute about the duty on Mr. Rockefeller's wig." "Oh, that is very simple," Mr. Rockefeller, though rich, is economical. Finding that he would have to pay a heavy duty upon the 300 franc wig, he sent it back to me with instructions to keep it until his return this spring. He requested me at the same time, to send him his old wig. This I valued at about \$10, as I presumed he need not pay any duty for a wig which had been a long time in use. Mr. Rockefeller has bought as many as 10 wigs from me. They fit like a glove. He is probably more comfortable with them than if he had his own hair."

"Has Mr. Rockefeller a very intellectual head?" "He has the usual bumps of a strong character. The bumps of benevolence and of philo-progenitiveness are there. His eyes are small but searching. He can read a man's thoughts easily. He weighs everything in his mental balance."

PLEASANT AND MOST EFFECTIVE T. J. Chambers, Ed. Vindictor, Liberty, Texas, writes Dec. 3, 1906: "This pleasure and unexcelled by you. I bear testimony to the curative power of Ballard's Horcheland Syrup. I have used it in my family and can cheerfully affirm it is the most effective and best remedy for coughs and colds I have ever used." Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept., 112 and 114 South Main Street.

THE NEW LADIES' HOME JOURNAL PAPER PATTERNS.

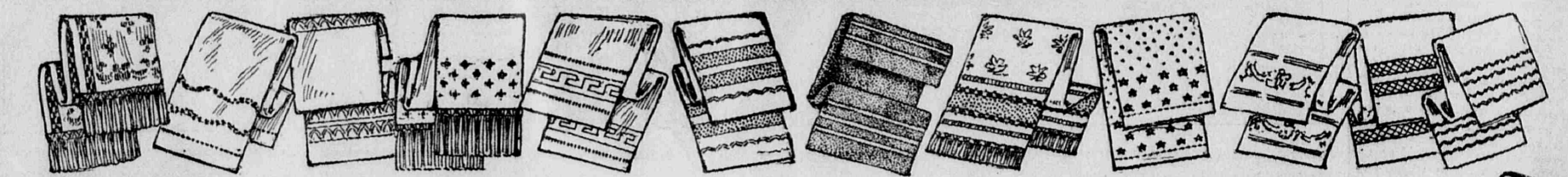
The newly created designs for the spring season are fully represented in the New Home Journal patterns.

Price 10c and 15c.



BEAUTIFUL PEAU DE CYGNE 50c ON SALE MONDAY AT

Handsome bright silks, with luster as good as dollar Peau de Cygnes, in ivory, cream, black and all wanted shades—they ought to be 85c instead of our low price! won't last the day out at . . . 50c



500 Dozen Pure Linen TOWELS

OFFERED ON MONDAY AT

33 1/3 PER CENT Under Regular Prices

This sale is unusual and remarkable these days, because it is a well known fact that there is a marked advance in the price of linens, in both the New York and foreign markets. But notwithstanding this condition our buyers were able to make this purchase for spot cash at ONE-THIRD under the ruling prices, and in accordance with our well known store policy we give our patrons the benefit of this lucky purchase. The lot is divided into four prices.

LOT 1 consists of pure linen German hemmed huck towels, size 17 x17 and 18x36, and sell regularly at 29c, in this sale at—

19c

LOT 2 consists of a high class German pure linen Huck and Damask Towels, sizes 20x40 and 22x42, sold regularly at 45c, in this sale at—

29c

LOT 3 consists of a still better quality German pure Linen Huck Towels, with white Damask borders, all hemstitched, sizes 20x40, and 21x42, 60c qualities all of them, in this sale at—

39c

LOT 4 consists of the highest grade German Towels, in huck and satin Damask, fringed and hemstitched, sizes 22x44 and up to 24x48, would sell in the regular way at 75c, in this sale at—

49c

Laces and Embroideries.

Linen Torchon Laces. Laces from 2 to 6 inches wide, warranted all linen, regular 15c quality; while they last . . . 6c
Embroidery insertions in both blind and open, in widths from 1 to 3 inches—15c and 20c values . . . 10c
Embroidery edges in dainty, pretty patterns to match insertions, regular 20c values . . . 10c
Wide embroidery, 9 to 12 inches, in blind, open and shadow work, very handsome designs, regular 40c 50c and 65c quality . . . 25c

Children's Spring Tam Caps.

Embroidered and plain, brown, navy, red and black, made of light weight flannel and serge, regular 75c and 85c . . . 69c

New Spring Dress Goods at Attractive Prices

36-inch Panamas in all the leading colors, including black and cream, per yard . . . 30c
Plaid and check suitings, in the new spring colorings of grays, tans, greens, blues and black and white, per yard . . . 60c
44-inch plain fabrics, such as storm serge, batiste and Panamas, come in navy, green, reds, modes, black and cream, per yard . . . \$1.00
High class novelty all wool suitings, 46 inches in width, such as black and shadow plaids in the new spring color schemes, per yard . . . \$1.75

Beautiful New Spring Garments Making Their Appearance Daily at Cohn's

Stunning New Spring Suits.

New, crisp, fresh, all the favorites in the changing light of the season. These popular garments are made in the new 1907 styles, embracing the full patterned panel effects, with combinations of strap and braid trimming. Several new shades are shown and these garments are especially priced at—

\$25.00 to \$50.00

New Cravenette Tourist Coats.

Suitable for "rain or shine." These popular garments are made in the new 1907 styles, embracing the full patterned panel effects, with combinations of strap and braid trimming. Several new shades are shown and these garments are especially priced at—

\$10.00 and \$11.75

Black Voile Skirts \$9.50 to \$22.50.

Very handsome black voile skirts which are sure to appeal to your fancy. Made in novel styles with fancy braid and silk band trimming. Skirts that fit and hang with an air of stylishness that gives the wearer a distinct individuality—

\$9.50 to \$22.50

New Spring Waist Special \$1.35.

These waists are of white lawn, madras, cotton poplin, checked and dotted lawn, are neatly made and trimmed with tucks, lace, insertion and embroidery. Open back and front with long and short sleeves. A dozen styles to select from, all sizes, especially priced for Monday and week—

\$1.35

\$4.95

Muslin Underwear Specially Priced.

MEN'S MUSLIN NIGHT SHIRTS, in sizes from 15 to 18, made of good quality muslin, fancy braid trimmed, sizes run good and full, 65c and 75c quality . . . 50c

LADIES' MUSLIN CHEMISE, all sizes, in knee length, good quality muslin, trimmed with hemstitching . . . 35c

CHILDREN'S MUSLIN PETTICOATS of extra good muslin, sizes from 2 to 10 years, 15c quality . . . 10c

A fine quality muslin petticoat for children 2 to 12 years, with large hem and one ruffle, lace trimmed, 55c quality . . . 20c

Children's good quality muslin dresses, embroidery and tucked yokes, hemstitched ruffle, 1 to 6 years, 40c quality . . . 29c

New Spring Goods Constantly Arriving

We place on sale Monday and week a new line of Taffeta and Louis ennes in checks, stripes and plaid effects in the new and wanted colorings, the proper thing for early spring and summer wear, on sale this week at, per yard . . . 85c

19-inch Shantung Pongee, always so popular in the early spring and summer, this cloth was purchased before the recent advance in price and we are able to sell it for one week only . . . 50c